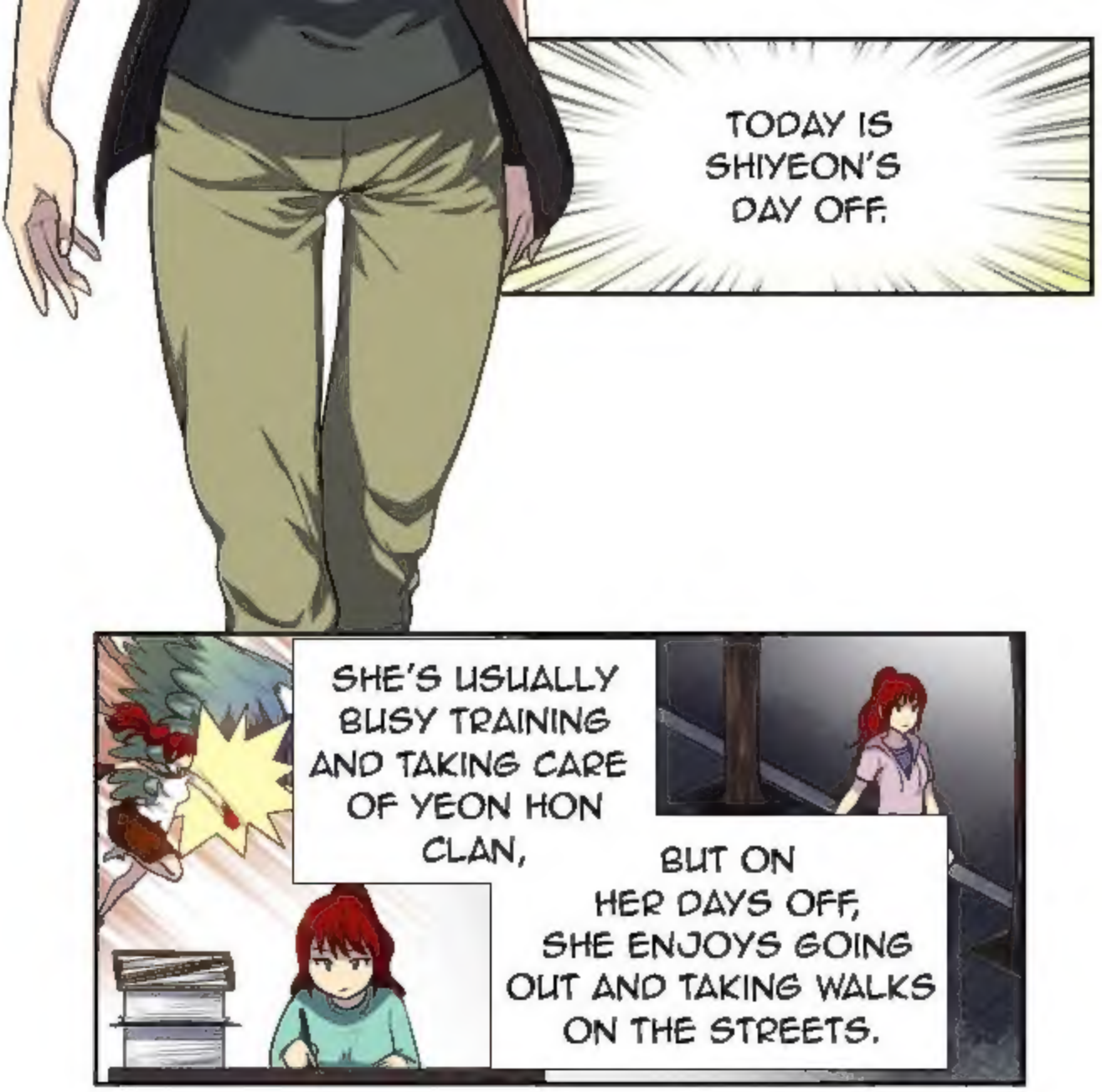
THE GAMER

STORY BY SANGYOUNG SEONG
ILLUST BY SANG-A

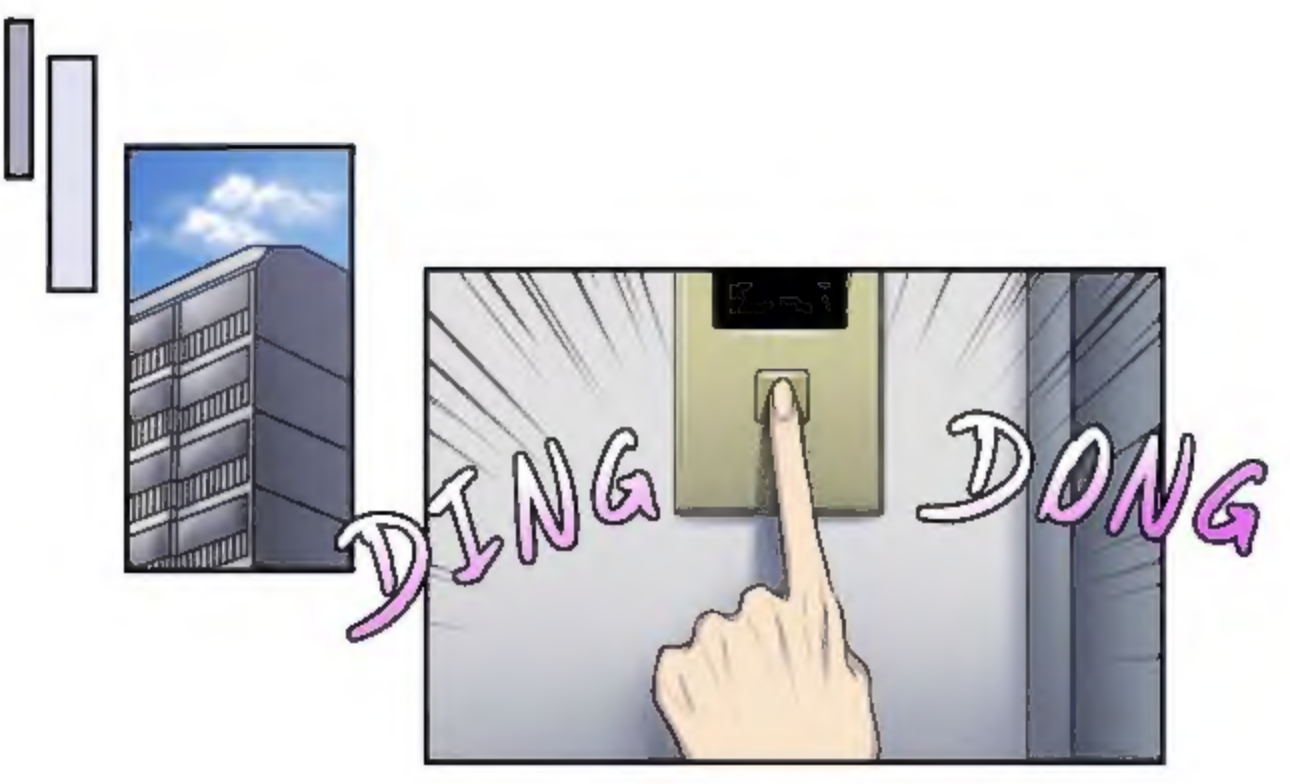

TODAY IS SHIYEON'S DAY OFF.
SHE'S USUALLY BUSY TRAINING AND TAKING CARE OF YEON HON CLAN,
BUT ON HER DAYS OFF, SHE ENJOYS GOING OUT AND TAKING WALKS ON THE STREETS.

SWIVEL

HM?

WHY AM I FOLLOWING HIM?

WHISH


DING
DONG

QUIET~
.....

NOBODY'S ANSWERING.

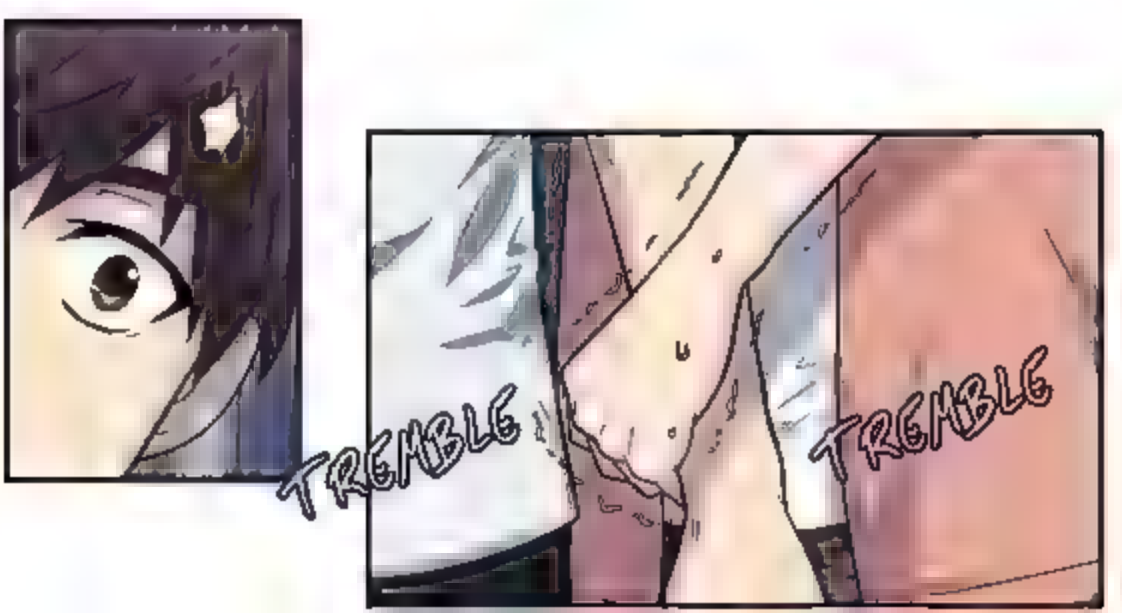
CRASH
JUMP

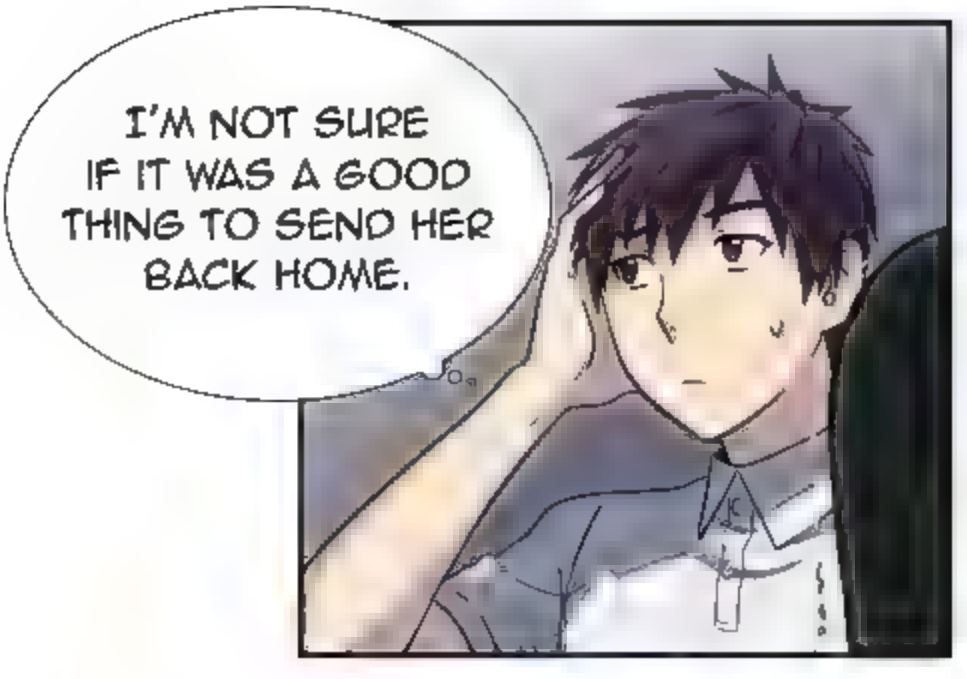
SWING

Y-YOU'RE HERE!

HUH?
DID SHE JUST RUN OUT AS SOON AS SHE HEARD THE DOORBELL?
TAKE A DEEP BREATH FIRST. CALM DOWN.
YEAH...
T-THERE'S NOTHING TO CALM DOWN ABOUT.
YEAH. NOTHING.

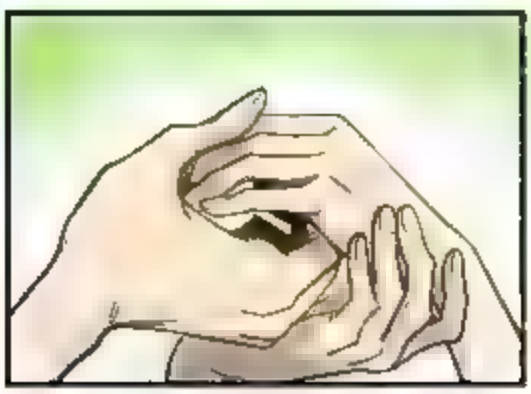
SQUEEZE

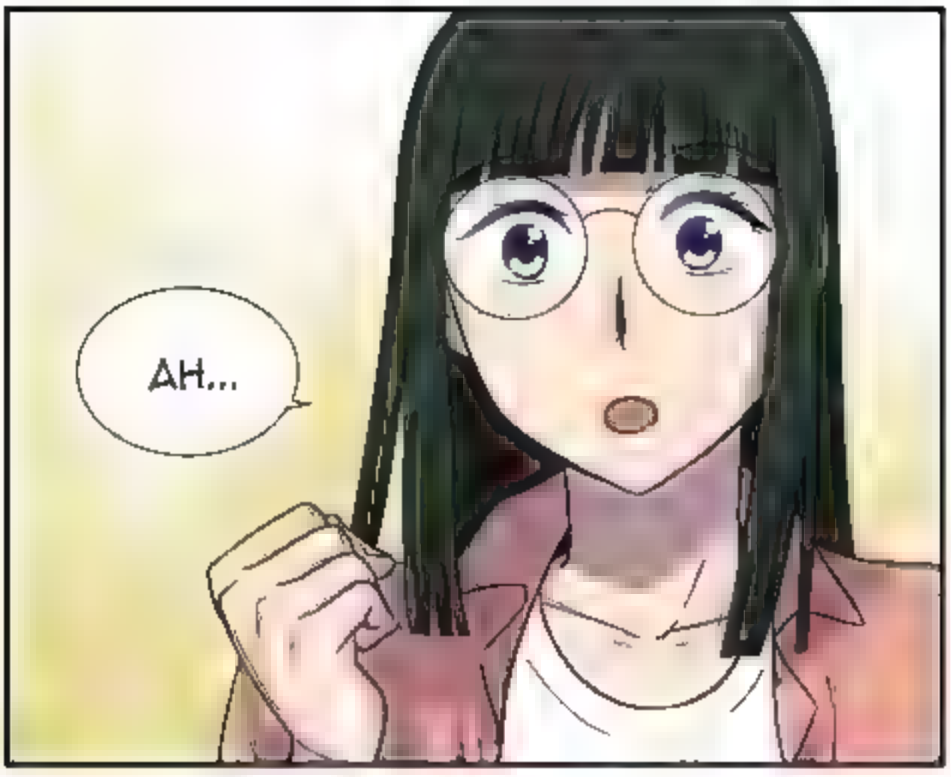

TREMBLE
TREMBLE

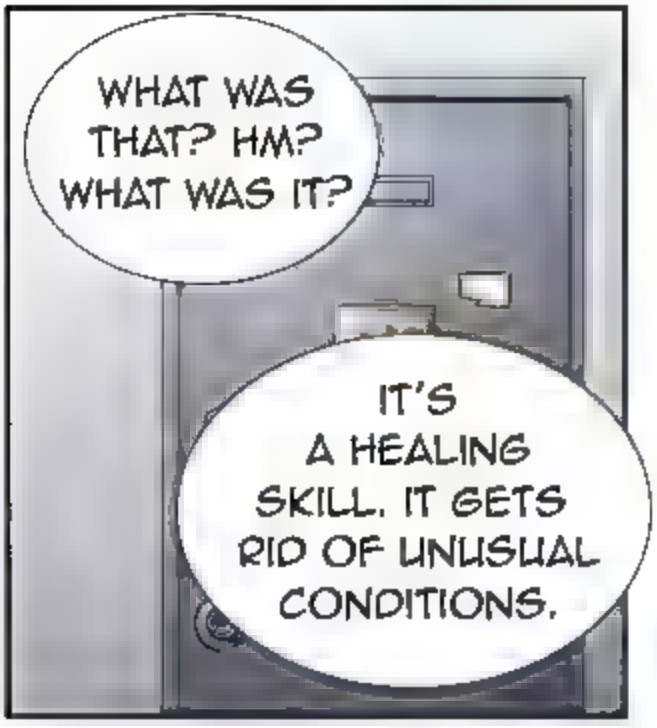

I'M NOT SURE IF IT WAS A GOOD THING TO SEND HER BACK HOME.

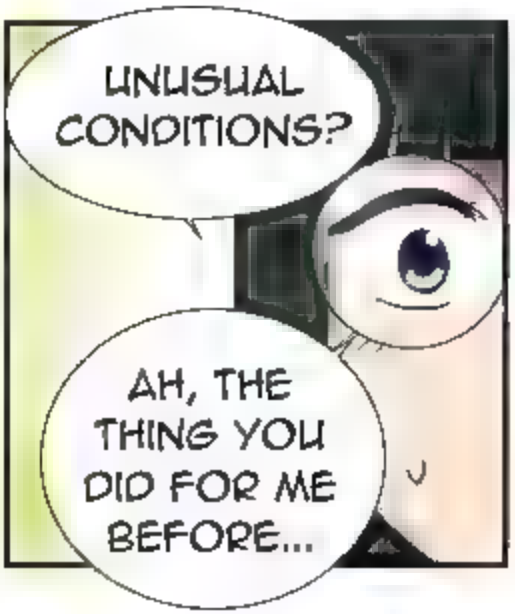
GIVE ME YOUR HAND.
HM?
GIVE IT TO ME.

FLASH
YEON HON PRINCIPLE.




AH...

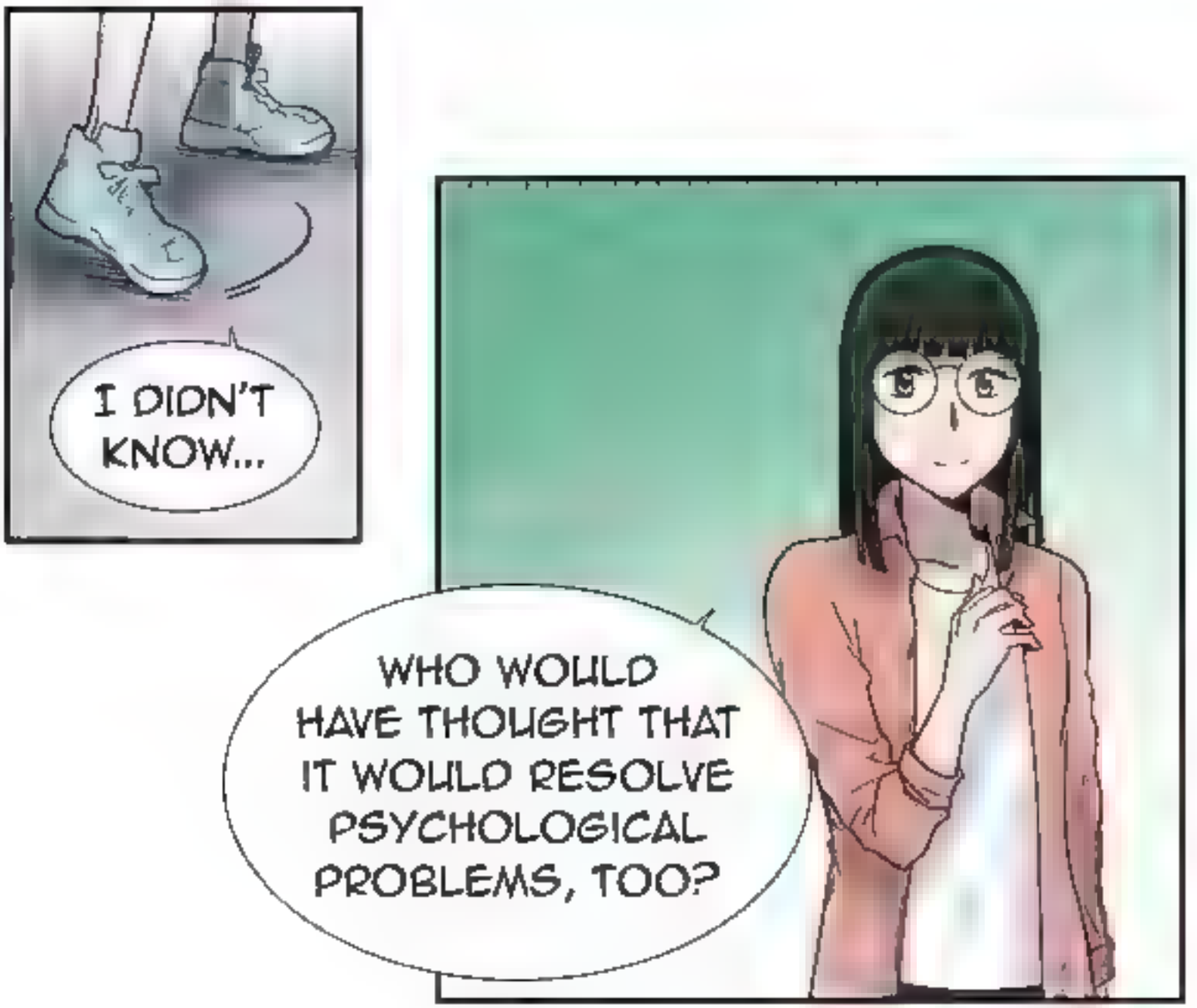

WHAT WAS THAT? HM? WHAT WAS IT?
IT'S A HEALING SKILL. IT GETS RID OF UNUSUAL CONDITIONS.

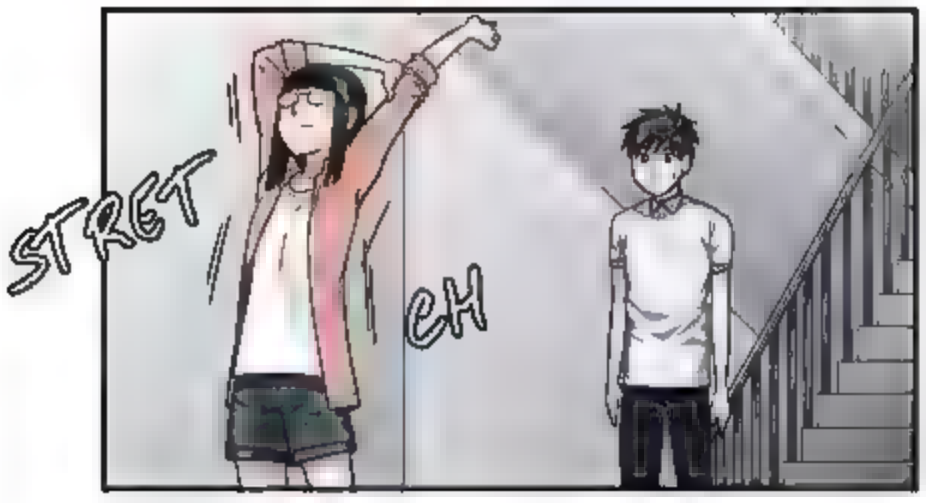

UNUSUAL CONDITIONS?
AH, THE THING YOU DID FOR ME BEFORE...

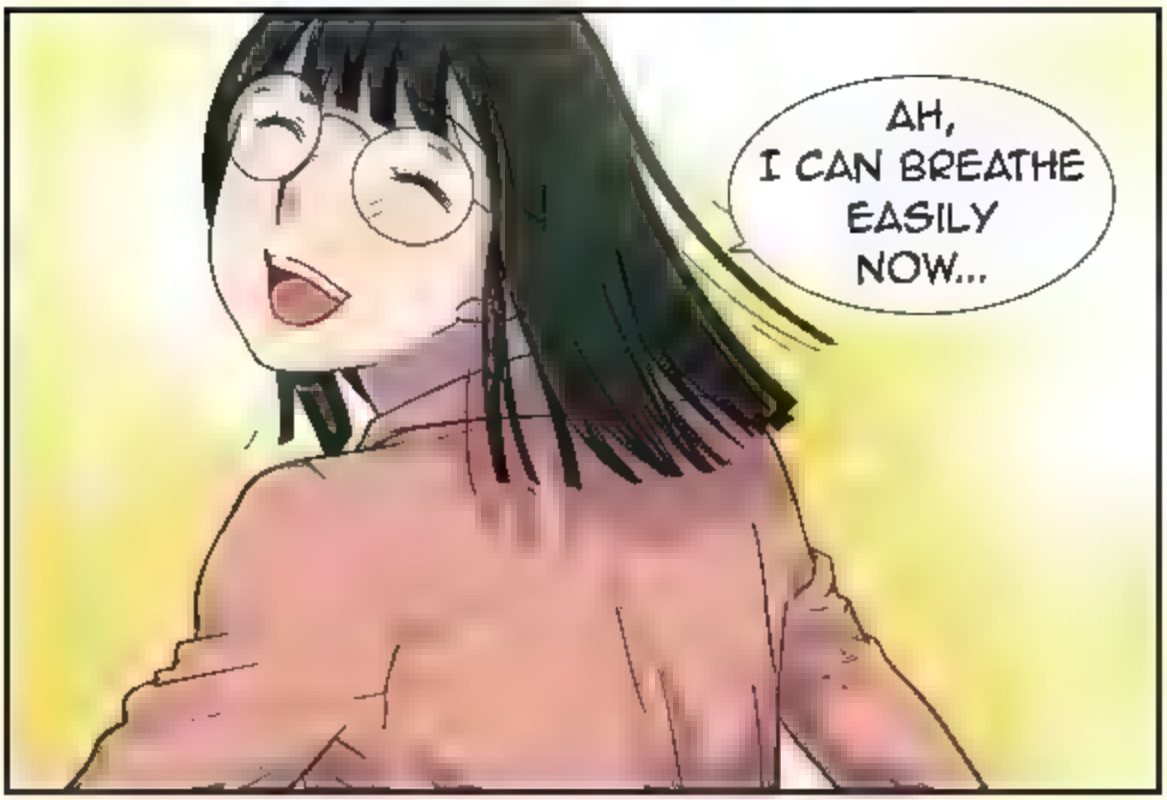
YOU'RE SO HANDY.
AM I? THAT'S A RELIEF.

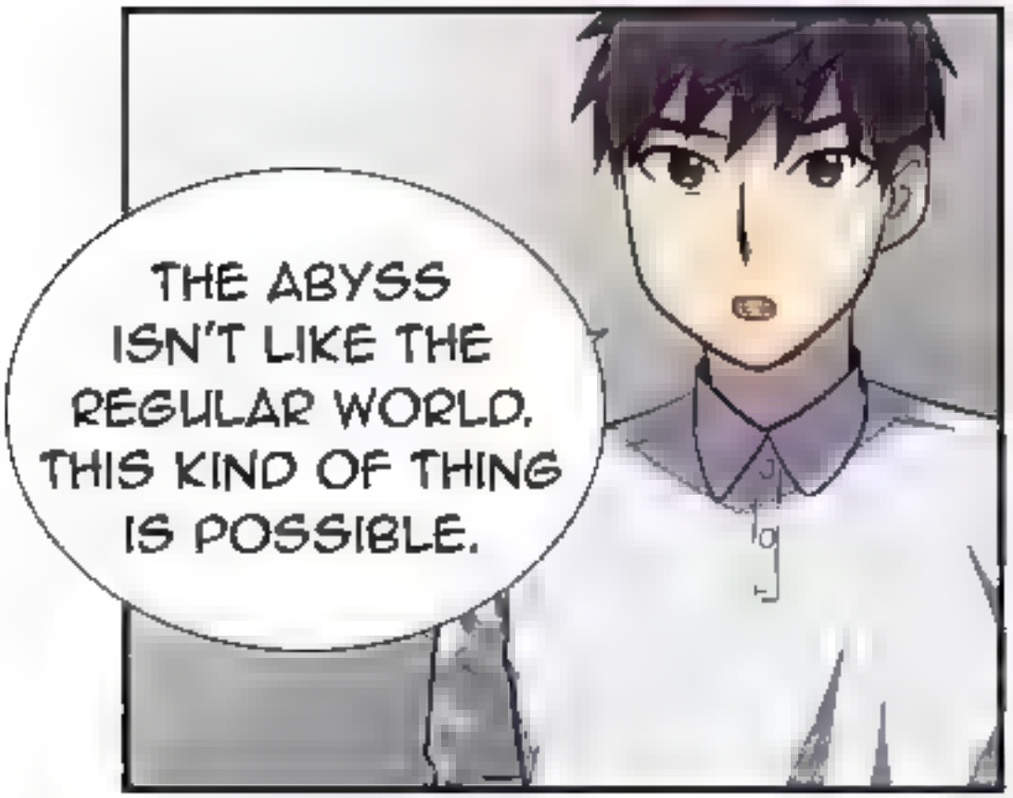
I'M GLAD I COULD HELP HER AT LEAST.

BY THE WAY...
IS THIS WHAT YOU WANTED TO SEE ME ABOUT?
JUST TELL ME OVER THE PHONE THAT YOU'RE NOT FEELING WELL.
DON'T DRAG THINGS OUT.
HOW LONG WERE YOU LIKE THIS FOR?


I DIDN'T KNOW...
WHO WOULD HAVE THOUGHT THAT IT WOULD RESOLVE PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEMS, TOO?


STRET
CH


AH,
I CAN BREATHE
EASILY
NOW...

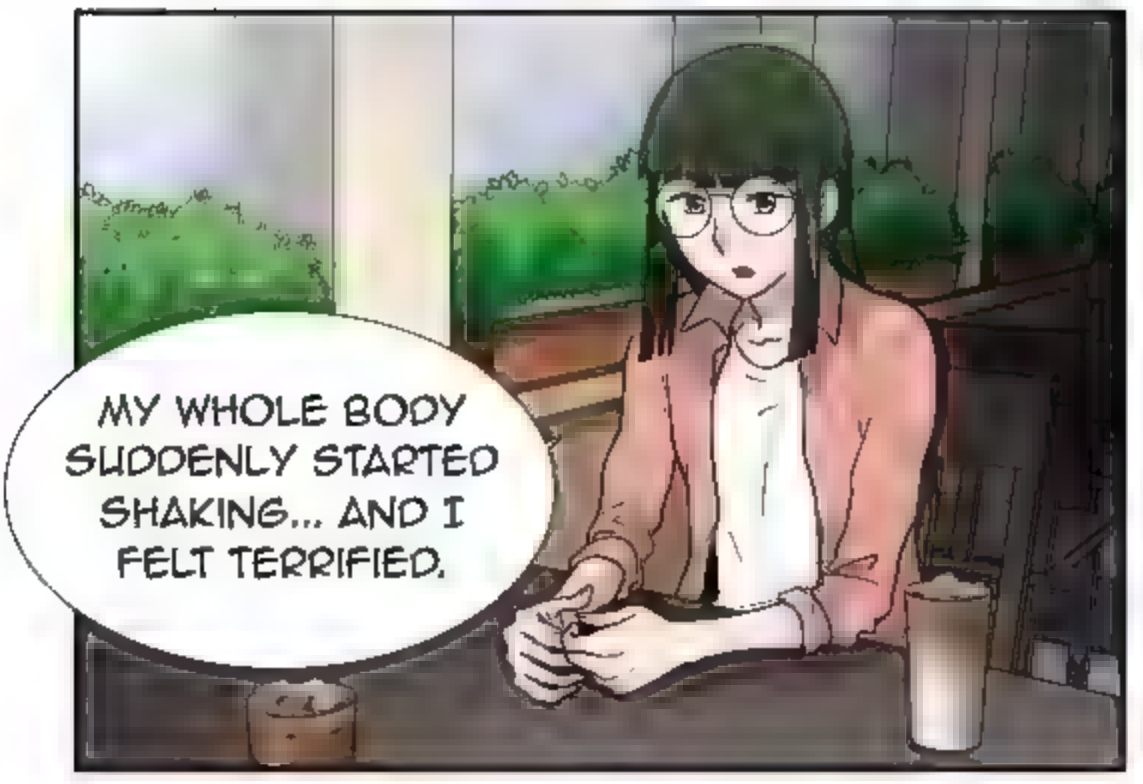

THE ABYSS ISN'T LIKE THE REGULAR WORLD. THIS KIND OF THING IS POSSIBLE.

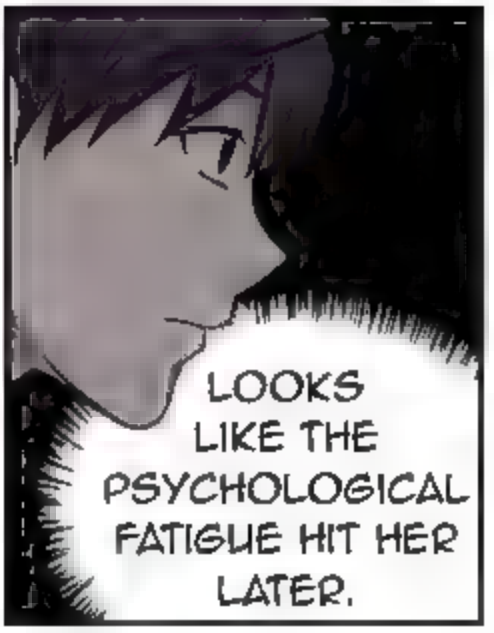
WAIT... I DON'T THINK WE SHOULD BE TALKING HERE.

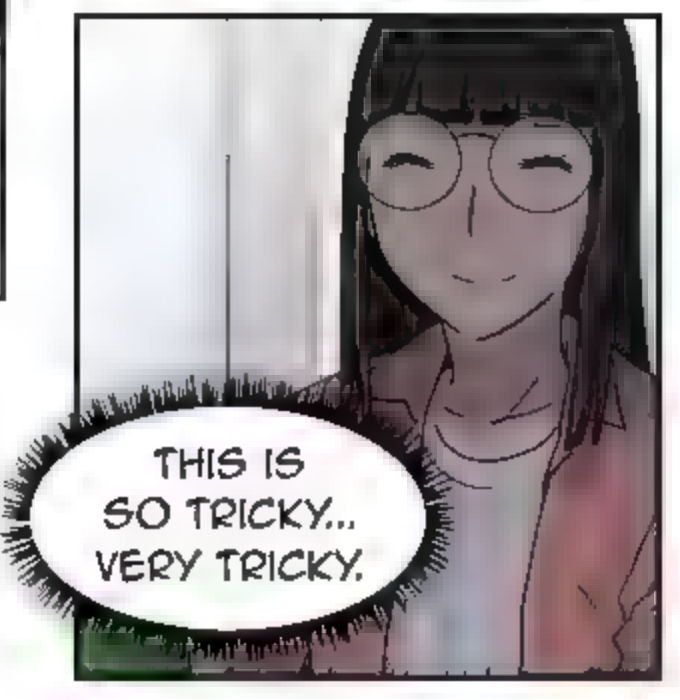
THE GAMER

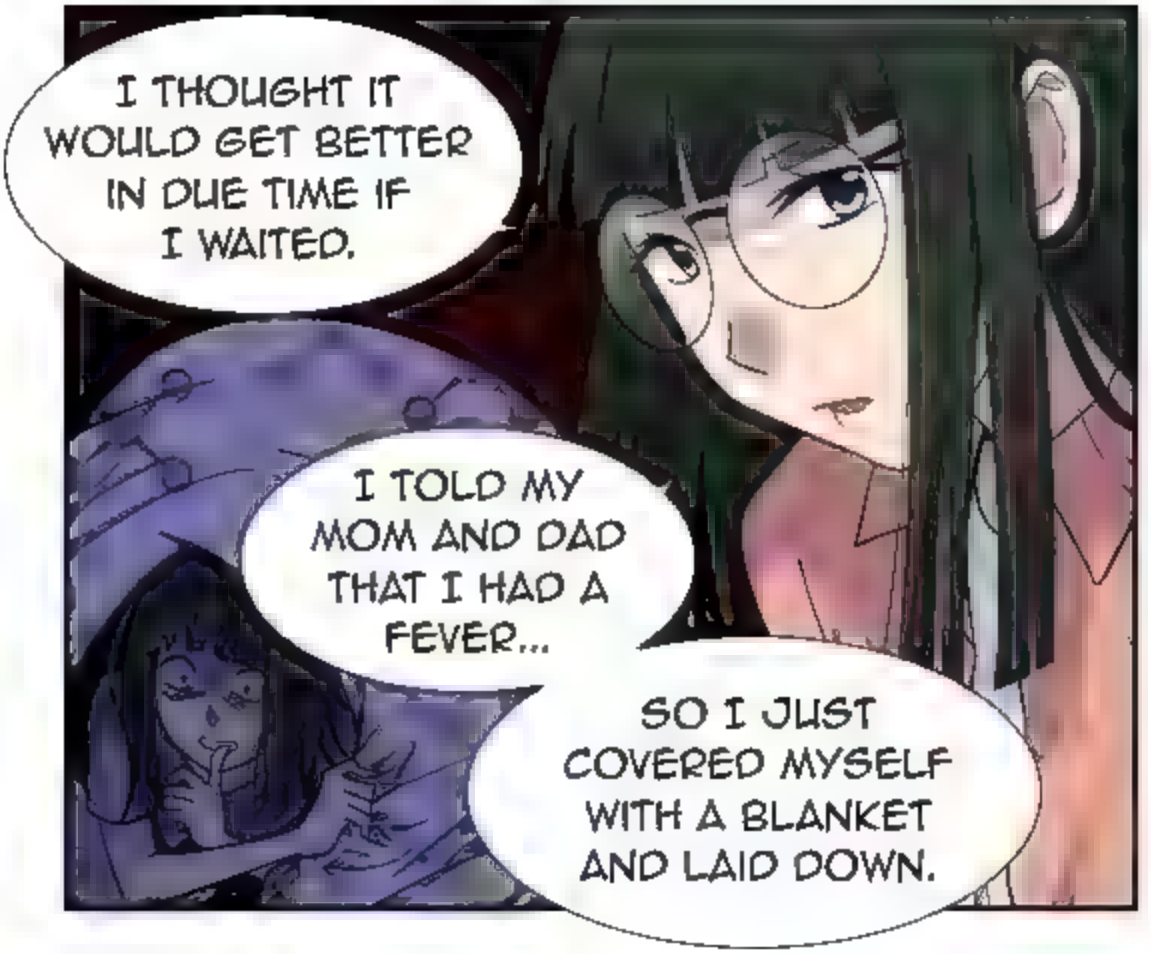
cafe

IT STARTED...
YESTERDAY.
YESTERDAY?


MY WHOLE BODY SUDDENLY STARTED SHAKING... AND I FELT TERRIFIED.


LOOKS LIKE THE PSYCHOLOGICAL FATIGUE HIT HER LATER.


THIS IS SO TRICKY... VERY TRICKY.


I THOUGHT IT WOULD GET BETTER IN DUE TIME IF I WAITED.
I TOLD MY MOM AND DAD THAT I HAD A FEVER...
SO I JUST COVERED MYSELF WITH A BLANKET AND LAID DOWN.

STUPID, RIGHT?
YEAH. THAT WAS STUPID.

WHY DIDN'T YOU CALL ME?
I TOLD YOU BEFORE.
SINCE IT'S A PSYCHOLOGICAL PROBLEM... I DIDN'T THINK YOU WOULD BE ABLE TO RESOLVE IT FOR ME.

PLUS, I FIGURED IT WOULD GET BETTER IF I JUST WAITED IT OUT.
UNLIKE SEONG-A AND SHIYEON, THIS GIRL IS DANGEROUS IN HER OWN WAY.

WHATEVER HAPPENS TO THEM, THEY BELONG TO THE ABYSS.
BUT SHE'S COMPLETELY NORMAL.

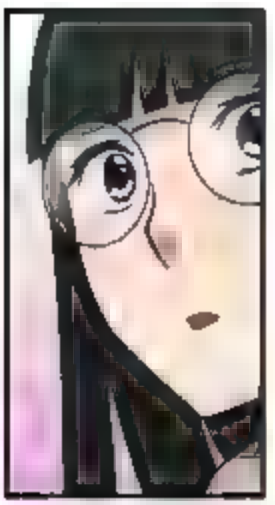
HEY... SO ABOUT THAT...

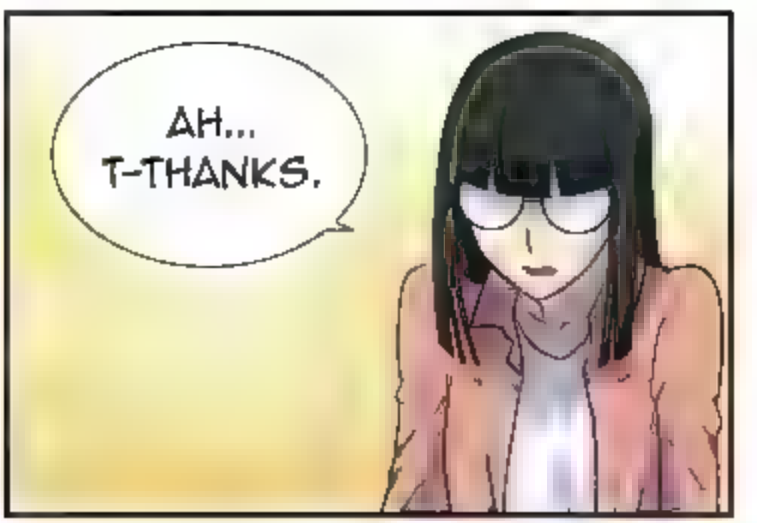
COULD I ASK YOU FOR HELP... ONCE IN A WHILE?

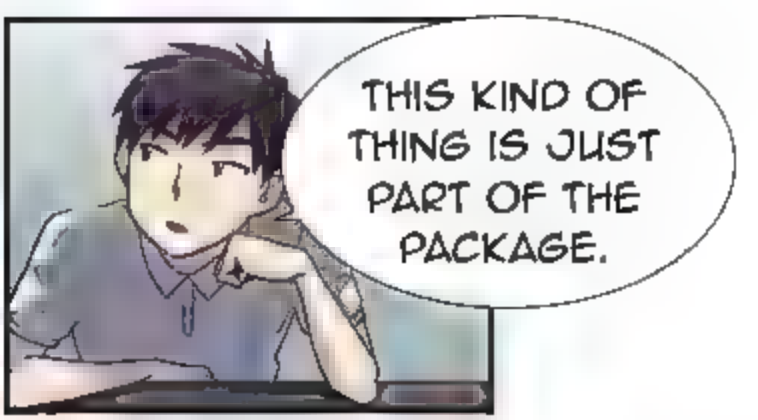
WHEW.....
I-IS THAT A NO?

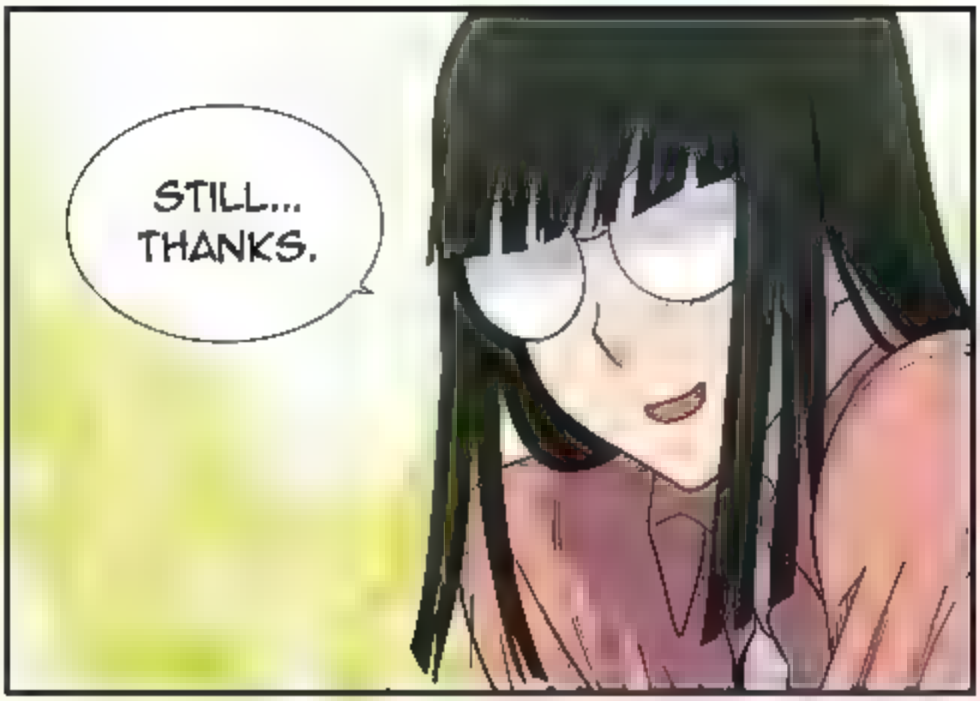
ARE YOU STUPID?
UH...

HOW COULD I NOT HELP YOU?
I TOLD YOU TO TELL ME WHENEVER A PROBLEM LIKE THAT COMES UP.
WHO ELSE COULD FIX THAT FOR YOU EXCEPT ME?

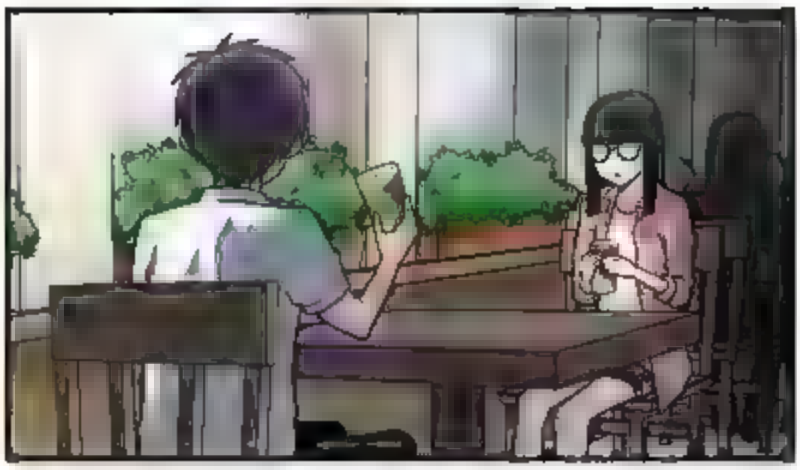


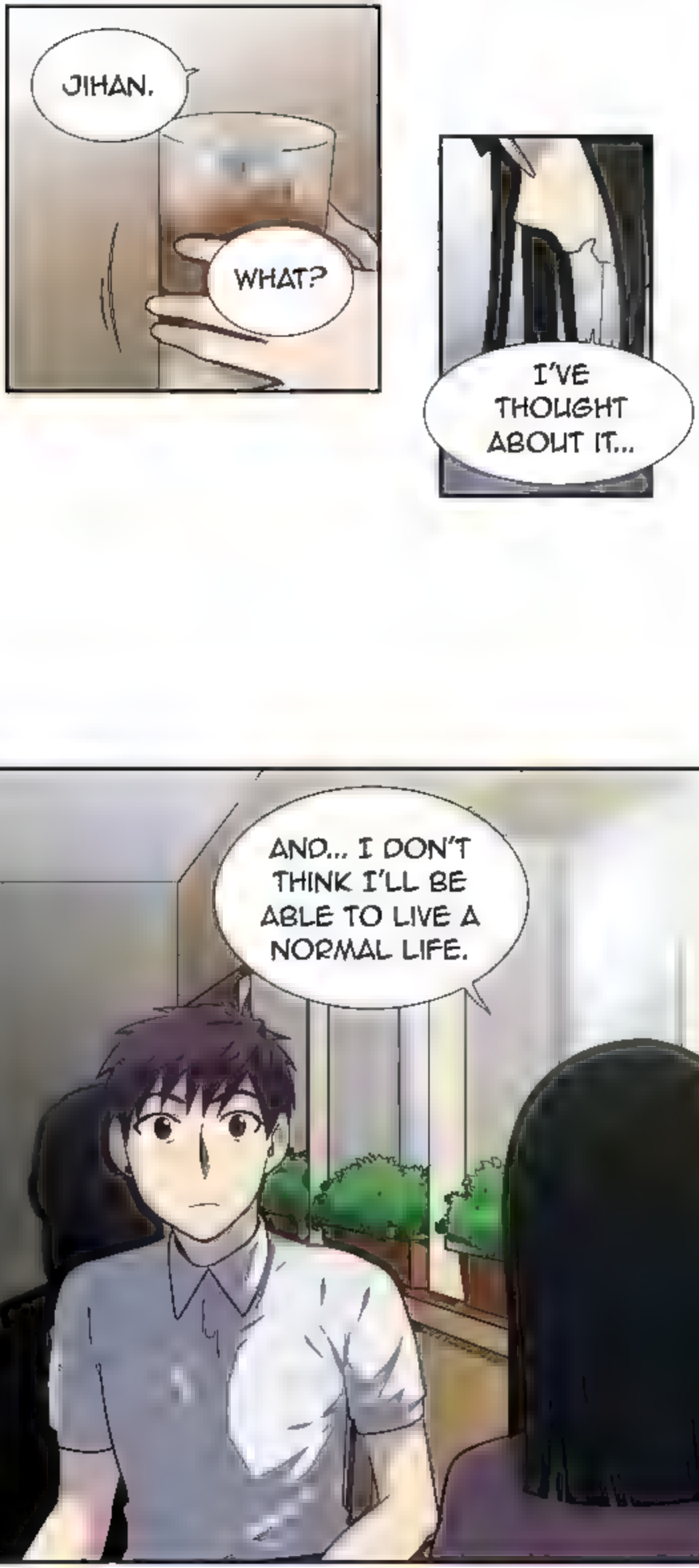

AH...
T-THANKS.

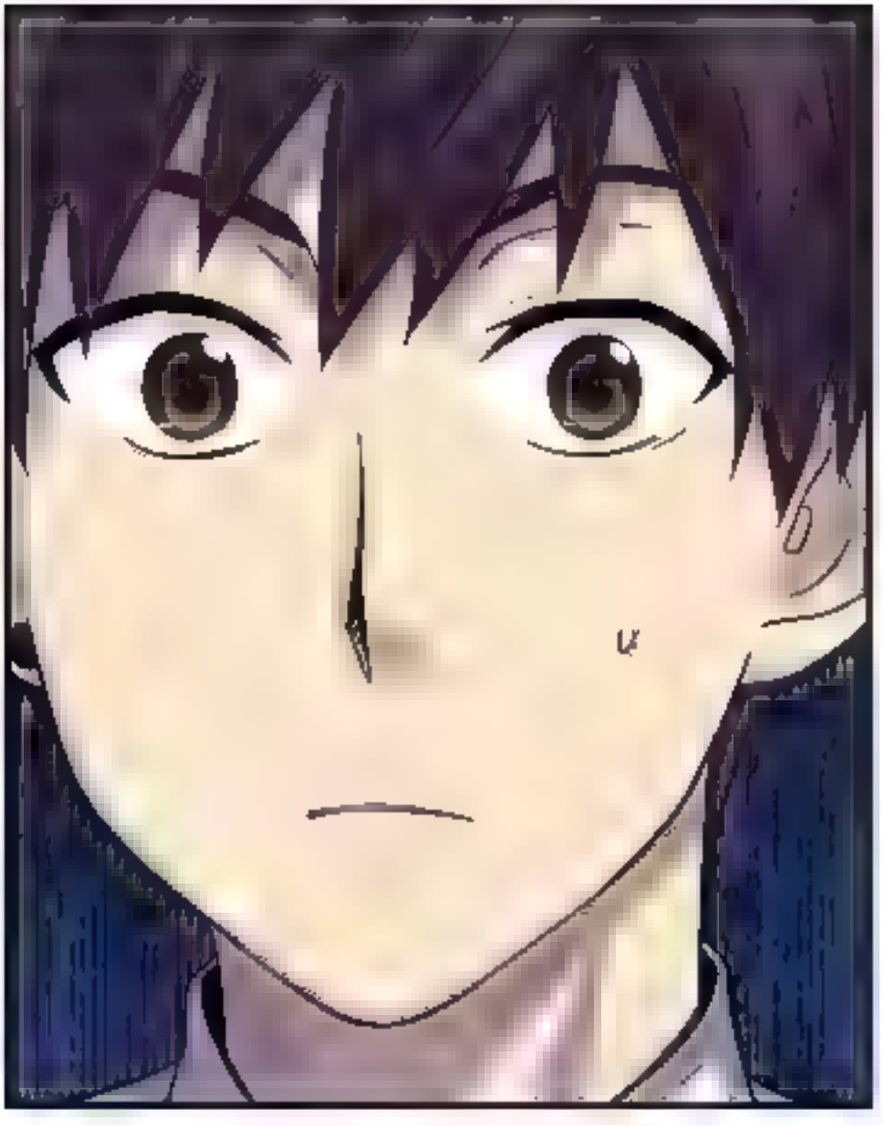

THIS KIND OF THING IS JUST PART OF THE PACKAGE.


STILL... THANKS.

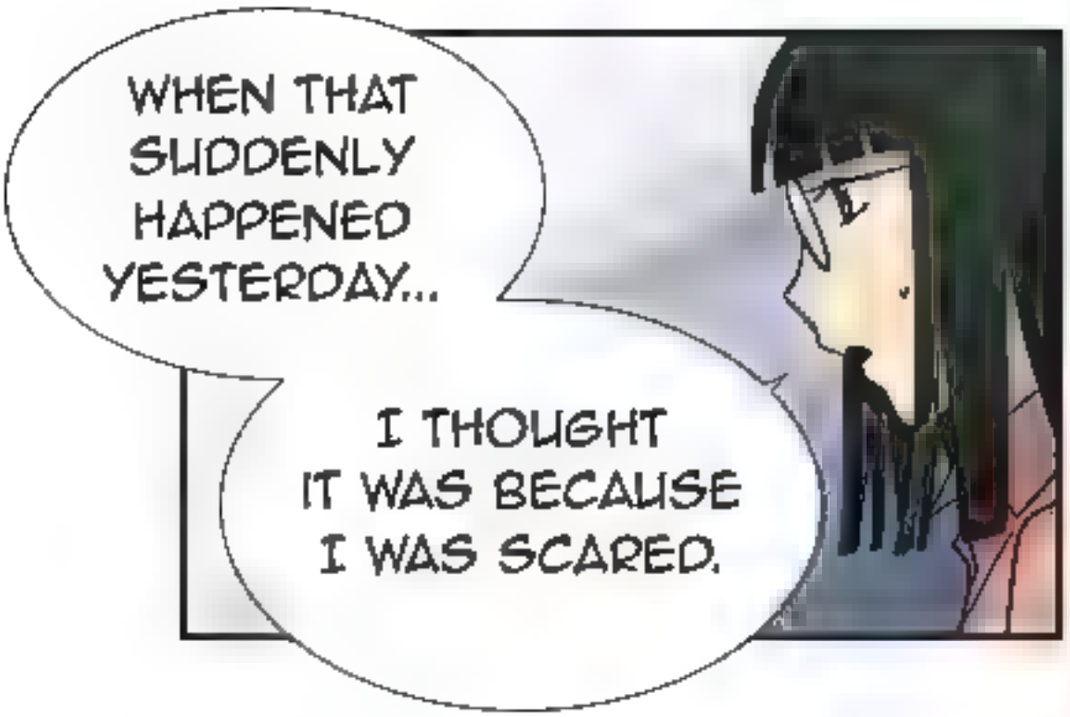
SURE.




JIHAN.
WHAT?
I'VE THOUGHT ABOUT IT...
AND... I DON'T THINK I'LL BE ABLE TO LIVE A NORMAL LIFE.



WHAT?


WHEN THAT SUDDENLY HAPPENED YESTERDAY...
I THOUGHT IT WAS BECAUSE I WAS SCARED.

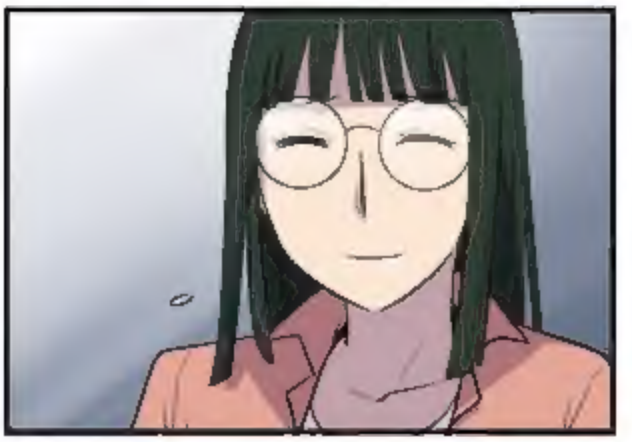
WHY DO YOU SOUND LIKE YOU'RE GUESSING?
HM? AH, YOU'RE RIGHT.

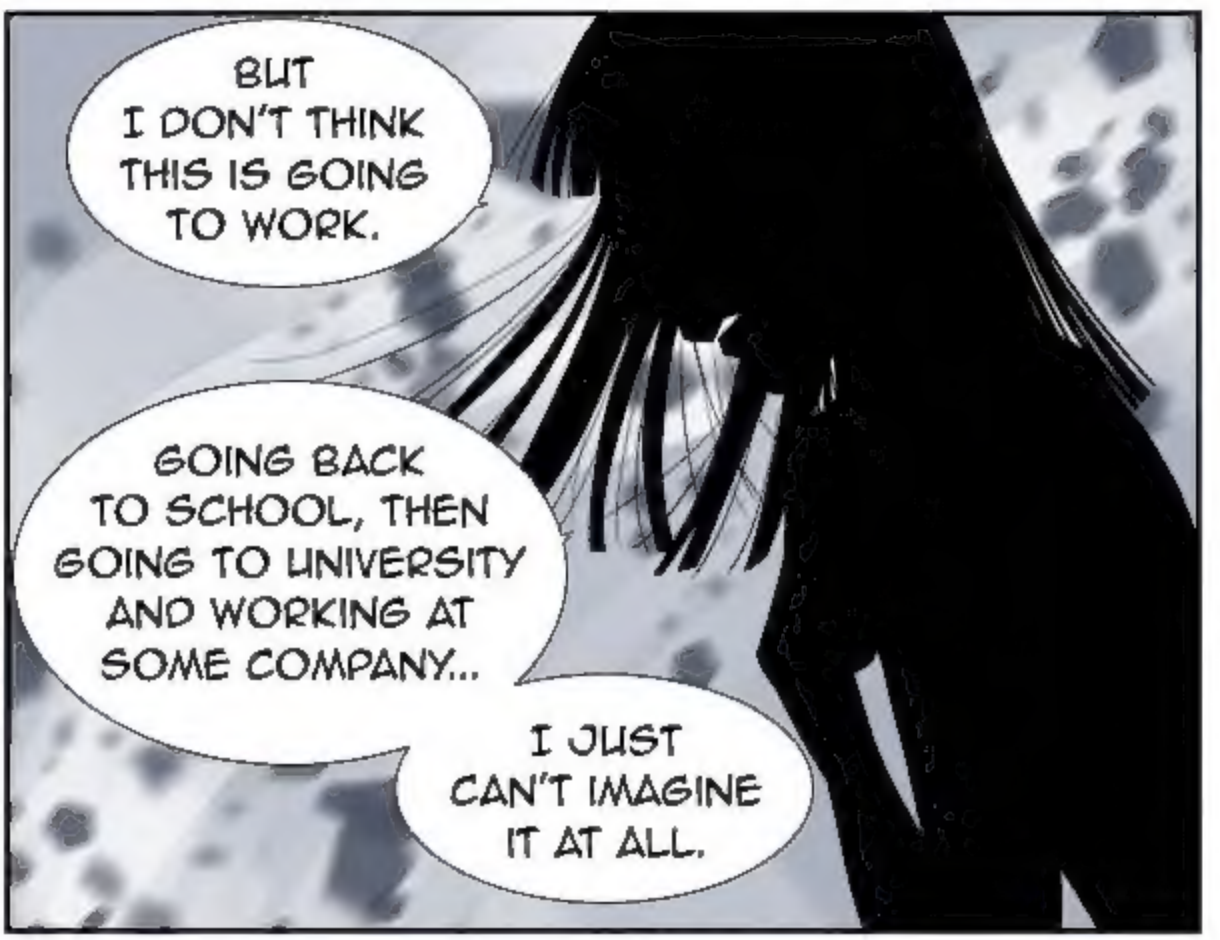
THEN I'LL CORRECT MYSELF.
IT HAPPENED BECAUSE I WAS SCARED.

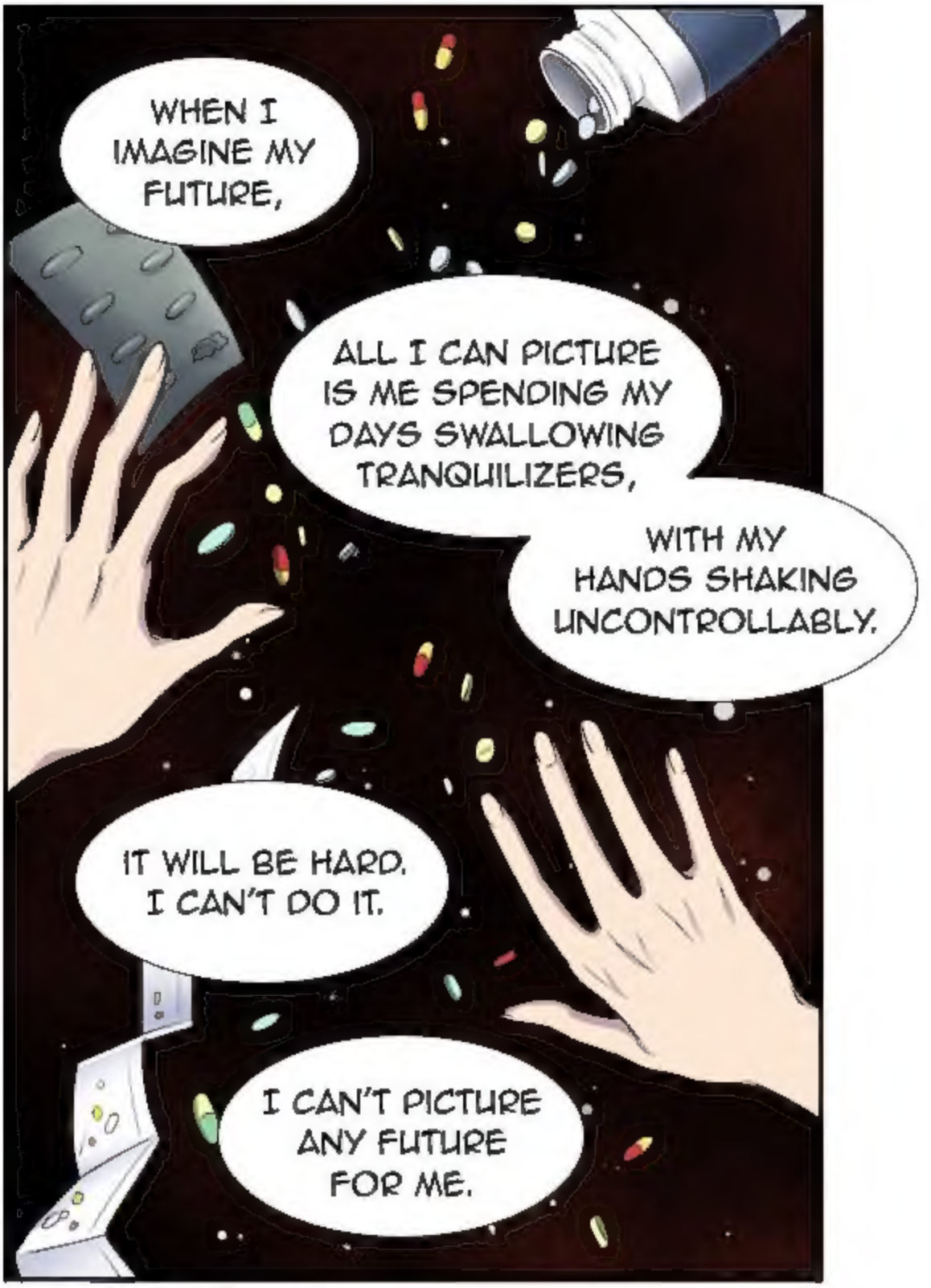
SO I THOUGHT A LOT ABOUT WHY I WAS SCARED.
AND I REALIZED SOMETHING... I THINK IT WAS BECAUSE I FELT UNCERTAIN ABOUT MY SAFETY.

BECAUSE
I CAN NEVER BE
SURE THAT IT
WON'T HAPPEN
AGAIN.

SO
I THOUGHT:
WHEN WILL I BE
ABLE TO ESCAPE
FROM THIS
FEAR?




BUT
I DON'T THINK
THIS IS GOING
TO WORK.
GOING BACK
TO SCHOOL, THEN
GOING TO UNIVERSITY
AND WORKING AT
SOME COMPANY...
I JUST
CAN'T IMAGINE
IT AT ALL.


WHEN I IMAGINE MY FUTURE,
ALL I CAN PICTURE IS ME SPENDING MY DAYS SWALLOWING TRANQUILIZERS,
WITH MY HANDS SHAKING UNCONTROLLABLY.
IT WILL BE HARD. I CAN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T PICTURE ANY FUTURE FOR ME.

IS IT THAT BAD...?

I CAN'T RUN AWAY FROM IT.

THAT'S WHY...

I THINK THAT THE ONLY WAY IS TO OVERCOME THIS.

WEB TOON
LINE Webtoon